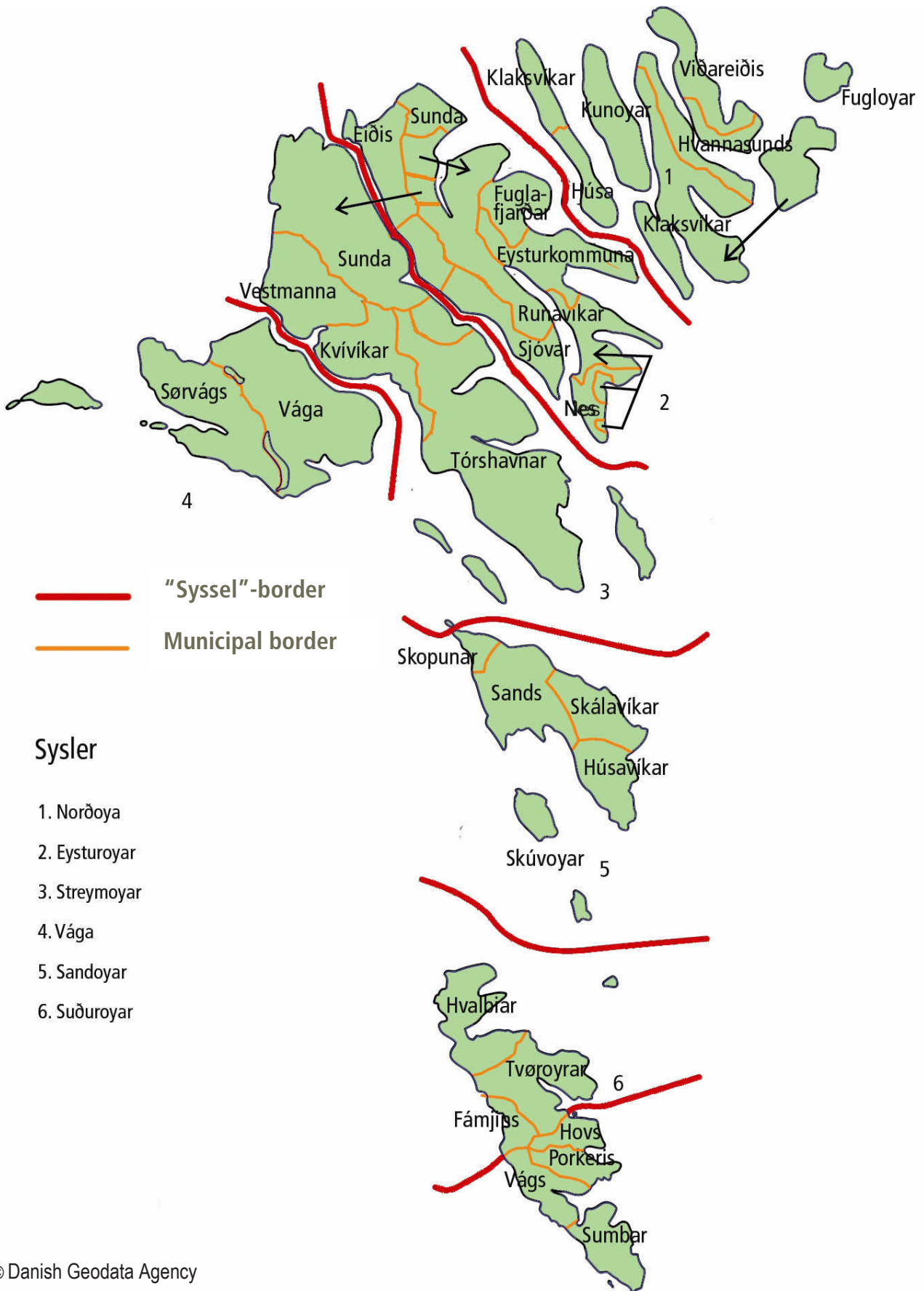
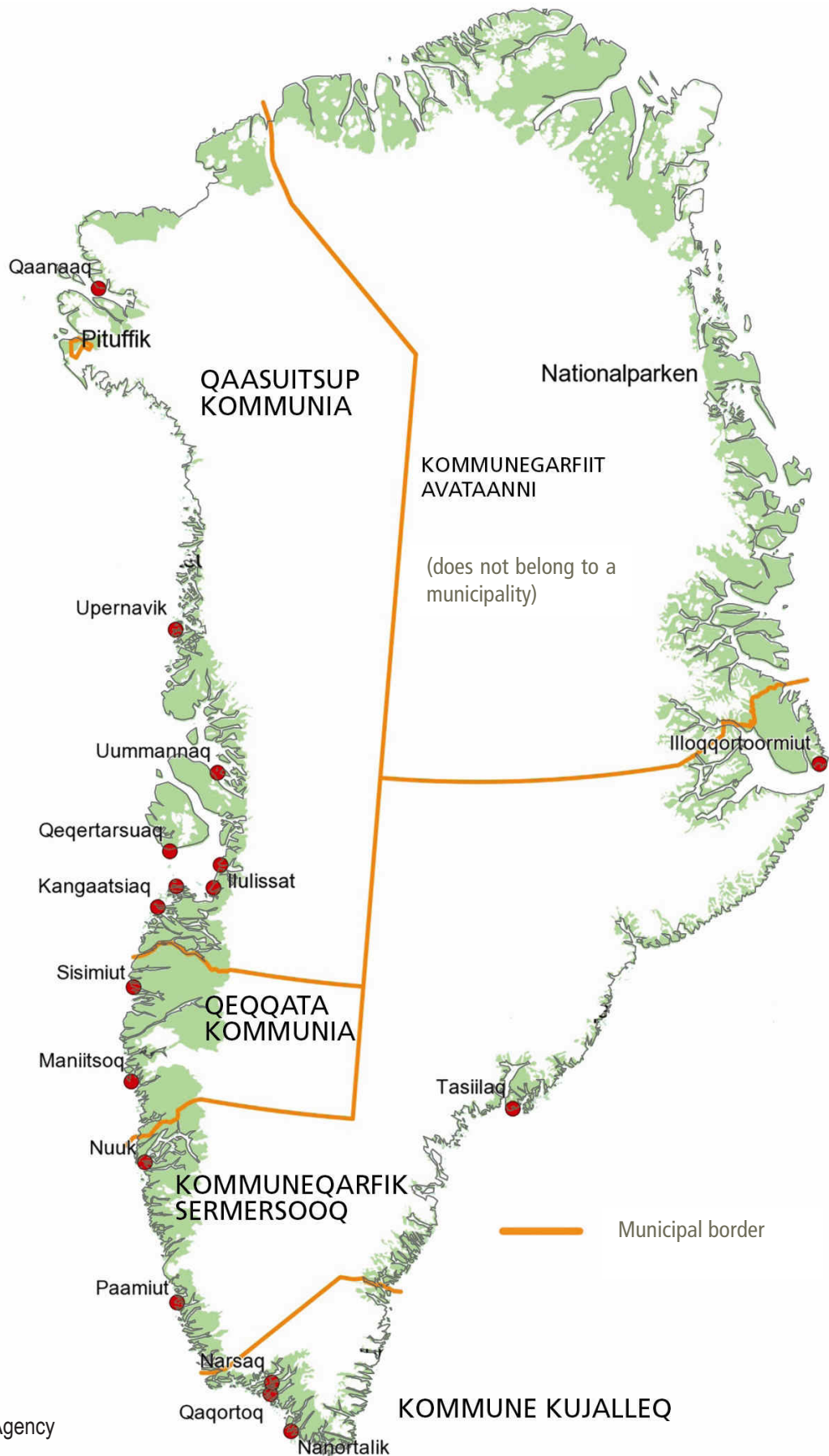


Faroe Islands



Greenland



Faroe Islands and Greenland

The populations

The economy



The populations

One kingdom – three different communities

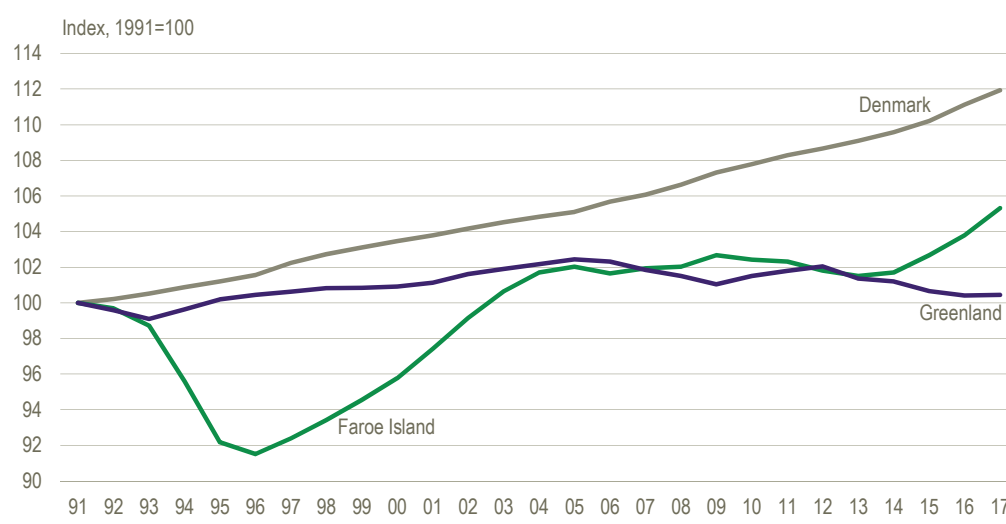
The Faroe Islands and Greenland are both part of the Kingdom of Denmark, going back as far as the Early Middle Ages. During the 20th century, the two countries have gradually liberated themselves from Denmark and have today independent extended home rule. Home rule was established in the Faroe Islands in 1948. In Greenland home rule was established in 1979 and further autonomy and self rule in 2009.

The authorities in the Faroe Islands and Greenland make legislation governing their own social and economic conditions, e.g. fishing, housing, schools, trade and industry, municipal matters, etc., whereas issues regarding foreign, security and legal policies are joint responsibilities governed in accordance with Danish legislation. Over the years, the Faroe Islands and Greenland have become financially less dependent on Denmark, but still receive financial means from the Danish state. In 2016 the Faroe Islands receive general grants of DKK 644 million, while Greenland receives DKK 3,681 million. In addition to this, the Danish state pays the expenditure on operating, e.g. the legal system and defence.

Small populations

The size of the Danish population is far greater than the population size of the Faroe Islands and Greenland. Denmark has a population of about 5.7 million people, while the populations of the Faroe Islands and Greenland are 50,000 and 56,000 people, respectively. A medium-sized Danish provincial town has, for comparison, a population of about 50,000.

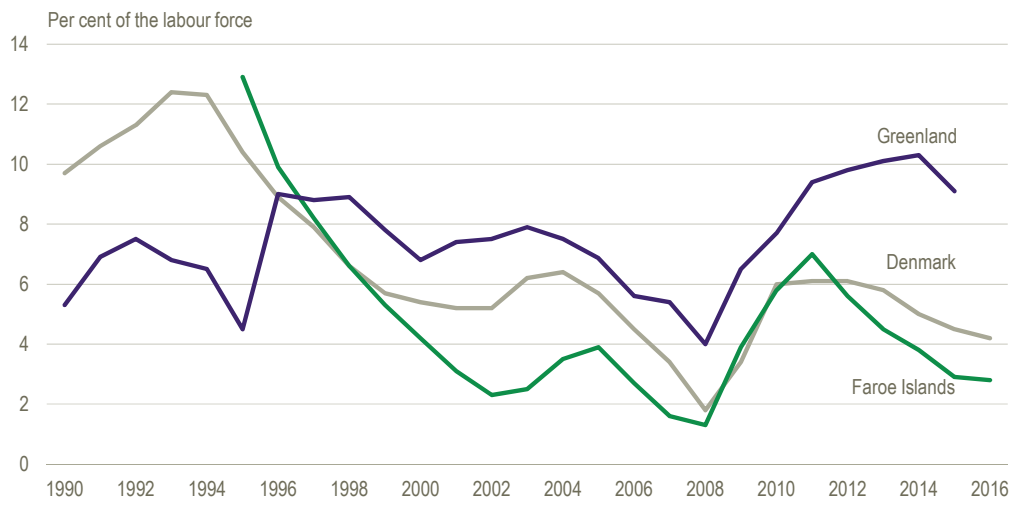
Figure 1 Population trends



The economic crisis in the Faroe Islands in the middle of the 1990s

While Denmark and Greenland have seen a small increase in the size of their populations since 1990, the Faroe Islands experienced a sharp decline in the population size in the middle of the 1990s. The main reason for this was an economic crisis involving negative growth and a steadily increasing unemployment rate. Furthermore, the foreign debt of the Faroe Islands was nearly 150 per cent of GDP. Not until 2003 was the population size the same in the Faroe Islands as in 1990.

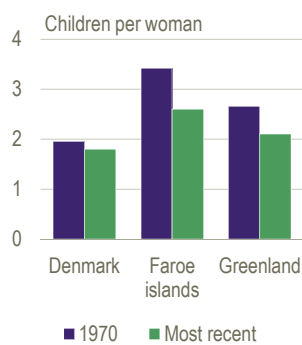
Figure 2 Unemployment in Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland



Women give birth to fewer children...

In all three communities of the Kingdom of Denmark, women give birth to fewer children today, compared to the 1970-level.

Figure 3 Fertility rates



Note: Figures from Greenland 2015 and Faroe Islands and Denmark from 2016.

In Greenland, women on average gave birth to 2.1 children, compared to 2.0 today. In 1970, women in the Faroe Islands gave birth, on average, to 3.4 children, compared to 2.6 children today and in Denmark women gave birth to almost two children in 1970, compared to 1.8 today.

Consequently, there has been a greater fall in fertility in the Faroe Islands compared to the other communities, but women in the Faroe Islands still account for the highest number of births.

... and live longer

The Faroe Islands also account for the highest life expectancy. The average life expectancy of men in the Faroe Islands is 78 years, while that of Danish men is 79 years, and that of men in Greenland is 70 years.

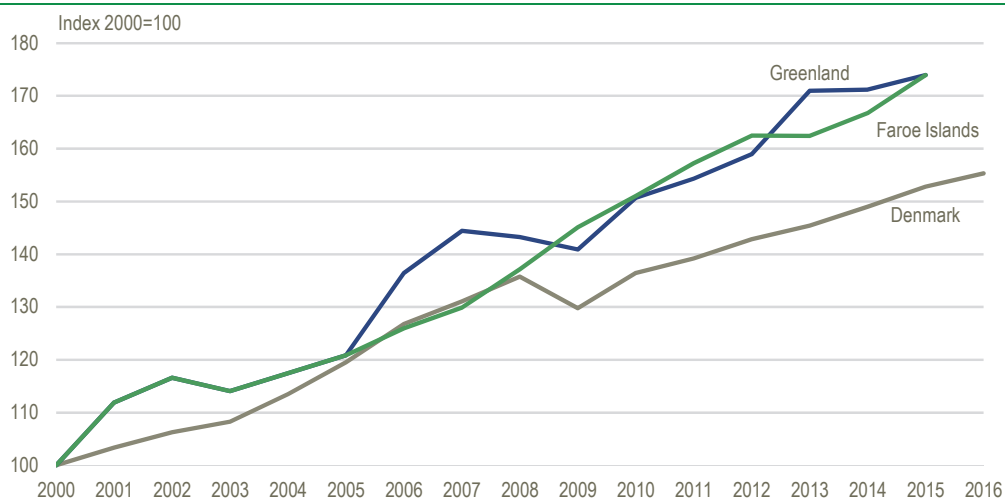
Similarly, women in the Faroe Islands live, on average, until the age of 85, while Danish women live until the age of 83, and women in Greenland until the age of 74.

The economy

Small economies in relation to the Danish economy

The economies of the Faroe Islands and Greenland are very small compared to the Danish economy. The Danish gross domestic product (GDP) amounted to DKK 2,061 billion in 2016 and GDP of Greenland was about DKK 14.9 billion in 2015. In 2015, GDP of the Faroe Islands almost reached DKK 14.9 billion.

Figure 4 Trends in GDP at current prices



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Fishing is of great importance for Faroe Islands and Greenland

In addition to the general economic development, developments in the economy in the Faroe Islands and Greenland have been influenced by the fishing industry. The economy of Greenland is especially vulnerable to prices for prawns.

The economy of the Faroe Islands is also highly dependent on the fishing industry, including number of fishing days, developments in farmed salmon and prices for, e.g. prawns and cods.

If you want more information

Since the first issue of the *Statistical Yearbook* in 1896, Statistics Denmark has published figures for the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

Today, the Faroe Islands and Greenland have their own statistical institutes, which can offer a far greater amount of figures and data than those presented in this yearbook.

The statistical institutes of the two countries can be found at the websites: www.hagstova.fo for the Faroe Islands and www.stat.gl for Greenland. A yearbook containing detailed statistics is also published by Greenland.

The reports prepared by the Chief Administrative Officer in the Faroe Islands and Greenland are also useful sources for your information.

Table 425 Key figures for Denmark, Faroe Islands and Greenland

	Year	Denmark	Year	Faroe Islands	Year	Greenland
Total area, km ²	2016	42 926	2016	1 396	2016	2 166 086
Average temperature, January, Celsius ¹	1961-1990	0.0	1961-1990	3.4	1961-1990	-7.4
Average temperature, July, Celsius ¹	1961-1990	15.6	1961-1990	10.3	1961-1990	6.5
Precipitation, mm. ¹	1961-1990	712	1961-1990	1 284	1961-1990	752
Population	2017	5 748 769	2017	49 864	2017	55 860
Fertility	2016	1.8	2016	2.6	2015	2.1
Average life expectancy, men, years	2016	78.8	2015	78.3	2011:2015	69.7
Average life expectancy, women, years	2016	82.8	2015	84.5	2011:2015	74.1
Labour force	2015	2 759 409	2015	29 950	2015	26 844
Unemployed, per cent of labour force ²	2016	4.2	2016	2.8	2015	9.1
Abortions per 1.000 live births	2014	259	2013	36	2014	1.075
Infant mortality per 1.000 liveborn boys	2015	3.8	2016	3.0	2016	11.5
Infant mortality per 1.000 liveborn girls	2015	2.8	2016	3.1	2016	2.5
Suicides per 100.000 inhabitants	2015	10.0	2013	6.2	2013	79.8
Reported Penal Code offences per 1.000 inhabitants	2016	0.3	2016	-0.3	2016	0.9
Of which theft and burglary	2016	907 148	2015	586	2016	167.1
Of which sexual offences	2016	0.2	2015	0.8	2016	23.0
Consumer price index (inflation), annual growth, per cent	2016	573 749	2015	6 095	2016	4 192
Total catch, 1.000 tonnes	2016	?	2015	27.7	2016	72.2
Of which shrimp catch, per cent of total catch	2016	635 154	2015	6 852	2016	3 718
	2016	?	2015	7.5	2016	81.3
Imports, DKK mio.	2016	7.0	2015	97.7	2016	92.8
Of which imports from Denmark in per cent	2016	1 942 600	2013	14 678	2015	14 938
Exports, DKK mio.	2016	1.3	2013	...	2015	1.7
Of which exports to Denmark in per cent	2016	359 700	2013	305 500	2015	266 800
Exports of fish and fish products in per cent	2015	185 593	2012	-447	2015	-1 748
Gross domestic product (GDP) at current prices, DKK mio.	2015	9.2	2012	-3.2	2015	0.9
Annual real growth in per cent of GDP	2015	-1.7	2013	-2.6	2015	3.3
GDP current prices per capita, DKK	2015	?	2016	644	2016	3 679
Balance of payments, current account, DKK mio.	2013	7.3	2012	-3.2
Balance of payments in per cent of GDP	2012	-3.9	2012	-1.8
Surplus on public finance, per cent of GDP	•	•	2014	644	2014	3 681
General grants from the Danish government, DKK mio.						

¹ Meteorological information from Thorshavn on the Faroe Islands and Nuuk in Greenland. ² In Greenland, the unemployment rate is calculated as the number of medio unemployed as a percentage of the potential labour force.

Source: Statistics Denmark, Statistics Faroe Islands, Statistics Greenland, *Statistical ten-year review* and *Nordic Statistical Yearbook*.